# risë stevens

mezzo-soprano,

with orchestra

conducted by

(arranged by alan shulman)

sylvan shulman

**O**C ml-4179

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LD

long playing microgroove nonbreakable (arranged by alan shulman)

25.4 1 × 1 × 20 - ----

### SINCERELY YOURS

(Arranged by Alan Shulman) Del Riego: Homing · Nevin: The Rosary · Tate: Somewhere A Voice Is Calling · Cadman: At Dawning, Op. 29, No. 1 · Rasbach: Trees · Stults: The Sweetest Story Ever Told · Bartlett: A Dream · Molloy: Love's Old Sweet Song

## LOVE SONGS

(Arranged by Alan Shulman) Dearly Beloved · Lover, Come Back To Me · The Man I Love · Love Walked In · Falling In Love With Love · I Love You · I'm Falling In Love With Someone · Lover

## RISË STEVENS, Mezzo-Soprano, with orchestra conducted by Sylvan Shulman

Love Songs

### Sincerely Yours

A meeting was being held in the office of Goddard Lieberson, who heads Columbia's Masterworks division. Risë Stevens was present, since the subject of discussion was the next recorded concert to be prepared by Miss Stevens and her arranger, Alan Shulman.

According to the mail received—and there was a considerable amount of it—Miss Stevens' listeners wanted to hear her in a program of familiar concert songs. The list of suggestions was a long one and took some time to go through.

Ideas were exchanged freely as the contents of the new collection began to take form. At last everything had been agreed upon but the title; there, for some reason, everyone struck an impasse. Ideas simply did not come. A few tentative suggestions failed to arouse enthusiasm; nothing even reasonably satisfactory came to light.

While everyone was still sitting, trying hard to think intelligently, someone came to the door with a photograph of Miss Stevens. One of the office girls had long wanted an autographed portrait of the mezzo-soprano, and this appeared to be her chance to get it. Miss Stevens is always gracious; she accepted the picture, wrote across it "Sincerely Yours—Risë Stevens" and handed it back. That did it. Risë perked up in her chair, looked about her, and said, "Why not call it 'Sincerely Yours'?"

Thus the title of this collection came about. The songs which it contains are, by request, familiar and often sung. By the same token, they are the songs which people like to hear and which they have asked for in permanent form, on Columbia Records. In accordance with their wishes, Miss Stevens has prepared this group for her listeners and offers it to them in the same spirit that she would a personal letter: "Sincerely Yours."

"All mankind love a lover," said Emerson. Perhaps that is the reason why all the world also loves a love song. Here in America, we have our own particular brand of melodic wooing, in a style developed in Tin Pan Alley. This is, for the most part, a transient type of song; with our presentday mechanized methods of exploitation, a song may soar to the heights of popularity within six weeks, only to drop into oblivion. Out of the tremendous mass of songs produced each year, however, there emerge one or two which are deserving of a permanent place in the musical sun, and these have remained, year after year, to be hummed and whistled almost as second nature by the man in the street and to be presented in constantly new and ever more varied arrangements by sophisticated music-makers.

In the present collection are eight all-time favorites among popular love songs, all containing the word "love" in their titles, and all presented in special and distinctive arrangements by Alan Shulman. They range from the pre-Tin Pan Alley I'm Falling in Love with Someone from Victor Herbert's operetta, Naughty Marietta, composed in 1910, to Cole Porter's I Love You from the 1943 Broadway show, Mexican Hayride, and include, in between, such classics as the Gershwins' The Man I Love, vintage 1924, and Love Walked In from the Goldwyn Follies (1938); the Rodgers and Hart creations, Lover from the film, Love Me Tonight (1933), and Falling in Love with Love from The Boys from Syracuse (1938); Lover, Come Back to Me from The New Moon by Oscar Hammerstein II and Sigmund Romberg (1928), and Dearly Beloved from You Were Never Lovelier (1942) by Johnny Mercer and the late Jerome Kern. Each of these songs has its own particular

appeal, and every one of them will delight the listener, for in this collection they are sung as only Risë Stevens can sing them.

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SINCERELY YOURS • LOVE SONGS-RISË STEVENS M

Risë Stevens, glamorous star of the Metropolitan Opera, the concert stage, the films, radio and records, was born in New York City of a Norwegian father and an American mother. Having shown musical talent from early childhood, she became a scholarship pupil of Mme. Anna Schoen-René at the Juilliard School of Music in 1932. Three years later, she went abroad for further study in Salzburg, Austria. In the spring of 1936, she made her opera debut in Prague. Her successes there brought her an engagement with the Vienna State Opera, after which she went to sing at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires.

In 1935, the young mezzo-soprano had turned down a contract to sing at the Metropolitan, because she felt she was not yet "ready." Upon her return from South America, however, she accepted a contract, and made her Metropolitan debut in Philadelphia on November 22, 1938, singing the role of Octavian in Der Rosenkavalier. Shortly thereafter, she appeared with the company in New York in the name part of the opera Mignon. She was awarded the lavish praise of the critics, who spared no superlatives in describing her voice, her acting and her beauty. Since then she has appeared in many other roles, including Carmen in Bizet's Carmen, Orfeo in Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice, Delilah in Saint-Saëns' Samson and Delilah and Cherubino in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro.

Miss Stevens has also been active in Hollywood, where she starred with Nelson Eddy in *The Chocolate Soldier* and with Bing Crosby in *Going My Way*.



